

**Dear Mrs.Chaudhry ,**

In the Municipality of Platanias, in the Voukolies Unit (in the location called “Neratzia”), in Chania, Crete there is a Park dedicated to the victims of Road Accidents, the “Christos Polentas” Park , the only park worldwide which is dedicated to road accident victims. It is a location that was to become the landmark for paying tribute to the memory of road accident victims and the fight against the “plague” of traffic accidents. The international recognition gained by this Park culminated with the inauguration performed by His Holiness the Ecumenical Patriarch Mr. Vartholomeos, the approval by the Secretary General of the UN, Mr. Ban Ki Moon, of the erection of the “Tree of Nations” in the park , and finally by the visit of the World Church Council. Hellenic Prime Ministers, the Hellenic Parliament and many Hellenic ministers have honored the park either with their presence or with donations of significant works.

Every year within the Park and the chapel of St. Christopher which is situated within its limits, many ceremonies are held in memorial of road accident victims. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of November we pay tribute to the World Day of Remembrance for Road Accident Victims, a Day established by the UN General Assembly and which is honored all over the world with various significant events. We, from Greece and Hania, pioneers worldwide, send out our message for the need to honour those victims and contribute, as far as possible, in the effort to arouse awareness both on behalf of the State and society, especially young people, with the aim of ceasing to be on the top of the list of European countries with the most road accidents.

This year, since the UN Secretary General has declared the decade 2011-2020 “Decade for Road Safety”, the Association for the Aid and Solidarity of Road Accident Victims “St. Christopher” has proclaimed the 1<sup>st</sup> National Creative Multimedia Student Competition on Road Safety , involving the creation of video clips, audio messages or posters.

The aim of the above mentioned competition is for young people to realize, with the aid of the Internet, the tragic consequences of a death or disability caused by a road accident. In doing so, they can create their own message against the unproclaimed war of road networks and car accidents , leading us in their own unique way to a better manner of driving and better behavior on behalf of drivers worldwide. The Competition met with great recognition since it is under the auspices of the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the Holy Archdiocese of the Island of Crete , the Holy Metropolis of Kissamos- Selino and the corresponding of Kydonia- Apokoronas, the UN, as well as the Ministries of : Internal Affairs, External Affairs , Health, Development, Infrastructure , Transport and Communications, Education , of the Hellenic Parliament Standing Committee for Road Safety and finally the Region of Crete Administration. The Competition has the support of representatives of the European Commission in Greece, the Orthodox Academy of Crete, the Ministry for Public Order and the Cretan Polytechnic School, the Technical Chamber of Western Crete as well as many other local Authorities.

The ceremony of awarding the prizes to the winners of the competition will be held on Monday, 18 November 2013 at 11 pm, in the Orthodox Academy of Crete in Kolymbari. This event is part of the two-day activities organized by the Municipality of Platanias and the Association for the Assistance and Solidarity to Traffic Accident Victims “St Christopher” to celebrate the World Day for the Prevention of Traffic Accidents. We also send you the schedule of the activities planned for 17 -18 November 2013 for your best possible information.

Thank you very much for your time.

**The President of the Association for the Aid and Solidarity of Road Accident Victims “St. Christopher”**

**Stavros Polentas**